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PARIS PASS USRO

British Embassy left aide-memoire January 13 expressing British view of Jan. 10 there are various indications of flexibility in Soviet Note/ British believe what way to advance is to find some formula to describe ~~would~~ preliminary exchange of opinion might take place which would not imply that either we or they had any been compelled swallow ~~air~~ of our words. Would like to establish some sort of permanent conference machinery to deal with German question along lines FedRep Note to USER of Nov. 24. British point to Soviet remark they prepared to consider QUOTE additions and amendments UNQUOTE to their free city proposal. ~~Soviets~~ Seem to contemplate possibility of interim solution of Berlin question while their proposed QUOTE peace treaty UNQUOTE negotiations are going on.

British stated they saw no reason why United States should not be perfectly frank with Mikoyan about advisability finding some way to enable both us and them to get off Berlin hook, even temporarily. They

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stressed importance of considering various possible interim solutions of Berlin question, including possibility that if Russians hand over to the D.D.R. they should themselves see to it D.D.R. carry out obligations which Russians purport to be abandoning. Also mentioned possibility some form of United Nations guarantee or presence in whole of Berlin going beyond part assigned to United Nations in original Russian note. Aide-memoire concluded it essential we should show absolutely no weakness in our determination to uphold our rights in relation to Berlin and to make it plain to Russians we would if necessary be prepared to risk general war in support these rights.

Text Aide-Memoire being punched.

Dulles (ABV)
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